

Identifying the Purposes of Local Government

A cooperative group activity

Grade Levels: 3rd & 4th

Curriculum Connections: Social Studies

Goals:

- When students are given an example of a governmental activity, they will identify the purpose.
- Students will work cooperatively in small groups to identify the purposes of local government.

Materials needed:

- Five paper cups or bags per group
- Slips of paper with government services listed
- Handout

Introducing the lesson:

- Review the five broad purposes of local government
 1. Protecting the health and safety of the people.
 2. Providing and maintaining public services through the collection of taxes.
 3. Providing for the system of justice.
 4. Protecting the rights of individual citizens.
 5. Promoting the common welfare of the people.

Developing the lesson:

- Divide students into small groups.
- Give each group five cups. Have the students label each cup with a purpose of local government. Pass out strips of paper with government services listed.
- Have the groups sort the services by identifying the purpose of local government. Have each group share and explain the reasons for their answers.

Evaluating the lesson:

- Do the students understand the purposes of local government?
- Did the students work cooperatively to determine the purpose of local government services?
- Have students independently complete a handout and identify the purposes of local government.